

COMPILED and EDITED by the CHAIRMAN ...

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SIX-HOUR RESCUE FOR BURIED BOY ...

A five-year-old boy who was trapped 20 feet underground by a landslip was rescued after a six-hour struggle ... Gavin Hall was buried up to his arms as tons of soil and gravel cascaded on to him seconds after he slipped into a 12-foot wide natural fault at the edge of Cannock Chase, a Staffordshire beauty spot. But the soil wedging him in saved him from plunging straight into a 100 foot underground cavern ...

... a National Coal Board mines rescue team ... drilled two tunnels into the side of the hill to reach the boy, whose desperate cries for help could be heard on a microphone lowered down an air passage ...

... They drove wooden planks into the hillside to prevent further earth falls and inserted airbags into the fault ...

... the boy ... was hauled to safety after falling on to a ledge next to a 100 ft sheer drop ...

... he (had fallen) ... down a bracken-covered hole ... caused by mining subsidence ...

The Guardian, 28 April 1986; The Times 28 and 29 April 1986

£ 1,000 FINE FOR HARMING BAT ROOST ...

A timber treatment firm was fined £ 1,000 yesterday for damaging the roost of a colony of whiskered bats. Protim Services of Bradford ... admitted the charge brought under the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981, was also ordered to pay £ 350 towards prosecution costs ...

The Times, 19 January 1985

EARBY MINES RESEARCH GROUP "DALES WEEKEND" 7th & 8th JUNE ...

In addition to lead mines visits, the weekend is scheduled to include underground trips in Wensleydale stone quarries, and Chert and lead workings in the Fremington Edge, Hurst and Fell End areas.

Details (SAE) from Dave Carlisle, Secretary EMRG, 2 Florence Terrace, Rosedale East, PICKERING, North Yorks YO18 8RJ.

OBSCURE EARLY 19th CENTURY SOURCES ...

The Penny Magazine contains items of underground interest in most early issues ... e.g. volume III (1833) includes Dover Castle, Subterranean Passages at Eltham Palace, Gibraltar, Peak Cavern, The Island of Milo, The Island of Capri, the System of Contracts pursued in the Mines of Cornwall, etc. A rewarding journal to browse through, although most items are extracts from other works.

CIVIL ENGINEERING HERITAGE: NORTHERN ENGLAND ...

This is the first of a proposed series of books arising from the work of the Panel for Historical Engineering Works of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Brief details are given, with illustrations, for selected civil engineering works of outstanding importance. Bridges seem to be particularly well represented, as do railway stations, but there are a few tunnels as well, viz:

York Roman Sewer

... unearthed in York in 1972 ... a length of sewer, with branches, still in working order, at SE 604 517 below Church Street. It is 150 ft. long, 4 ft. high and 2 to 3 ft. wide, built partly of millstone grit and partly of large sandstone blocks. It has been fully explored, surveyed and recorded by the York Archaeological Trust ...

Grosmont (horse) Tunnel at NZ 827 051

... George Stephenson's little horse drawn railway of 1836 ... Quite sharp curves were good enough for the low speeds involved and the earthworks and structures were minimal considering the terrain. ...

This little tunnel 130 yd long by 10 ft wide by 14 ft high was replaced by a larger tunnel alongside when steam traction was introduced in 1847, but it remains in use to carry a footpath. Frederick Swanwick was the site engineer and the portals were given ... turrets and castellations which, on this miniature scale, is unusual if not unique. The change of ownership of the railway here is also notable, namely Whitby and Pickering, 1836; York and North Midland, 1847; North Eastern, 1854; London and North Eastern, 1923; British Transport Commission, 1947; North York Moors Railway, 1973.

Nent Force Level at NY 719 468 to NY 783 436

An interesting classic no longer in existence ... In 1776 John Smeaton began the construction of ... a drainage level from Alston (lead mines) to Nenthead, a distance of nearly five miles. In addition to providing drainage for lead mines, the Nent Force Level was of such a size that it could be used for transporting, by boats up to 30 ft long, the ores from the face. A third reason for its construction was that it might act as an exploratory tunnel, so enabling further mineral deposits to be located. In fact it was only successful in its purpose as a means of drainage.

The tunnel was not completed until 1842 and it included six shafts along its length; the cross section was some 9 ft square with a water depth of 5 ft. Although the level is now inaccessible, a commemorative stone has been placed in the Town Hall at Alston.

Richmond Hill Tunnel, Leeds at NZ 31 374

Other underground sites featured include the Richmond Hill tunnel (Leeds) Bramhope, Woodhead, Standedge, Summit, Wapping and Crown Street tunnels and the Bridgewater Canal with its 46 miles of underground canals serving the coal mines at Worsley.

M.F. Barbey, Civil Engineering Heritage Northern England, Thomas Telford Ltd., 1981. ISBN 0 7277 0098 7

UNDERGROUND in 1086? THE QUARRIES in DOMESDAY BOOK ...

The Domesday survey is noteworthy for its lack of mentions of extractive industries, and notes of mineral workings are few and far between. Stone, or stones, of one sort or another was worked from 'molaria' (for mill-stones) at Bignor in Sussex and Whatton in Nottinghamshire; evidently unambiguously squared stone for building came from 'quadraria' at Grittenham, Iping, and Stedham (all in Sussex) and Taynton in Oxfordshire.

The Domesday entry for Limpsfield in Surrey is less obvious in its meaning, as it mentions 'duae fossae Lapidum ...'

This has usually been translated (e.g. C.C. Fagg, Mineral and Agricultural Industries of the Regional Survey Area ..., Proc. Croydon Nat. Hist. Sci. Soc. 7, 161 - 74, 1914) as 'two stone quarries' although the parish of Limpsfield hardly contains any stone fit for fine building work.

Information recently received, however, indicates that the Manor of Limpsfield consisted of several parts situated in four different ecclesiastical parishes - Lingfield, Limpsfield, Hever, and Chaldon. The Chaldon estate centred on Willey Farm, and work on the Willey estate indicates that the Chaldon stone quarries were a part of it and, therefore, belonged to the Manor of Limpsfield.

At least one of the two Domesday quarries, therefore, may well form a part of the Chaldon - Merstham quarries complex which has been surveyed during the last six years! To date, nothing has been found below ground to support such an early date for any part of the workings - but the oldest workings, just inside the entrances, are inevitably badly backfilled and collapsed, and are (also) exceptionally wet and muddy and unpleasant areas to investigate!

Peter Gray and Kay Percy (Bull. Surrey Archaeological Society 200, 5 - 6, 1985) also suggest that the other Limpsfield quarry may have been on Limpsfield Chart; R.H. Cunnington in Oxted & Limpsfield (ed. Lewis Fry, 1932) states (p. 118) that at 'Champions Pitts on Limpsfield Chart local stone had once been quarried by sinking pits 25 feet deep or more and tunnelling where suitable beds of stone were met with - very like the prehistoric flint mines.' There appears to be no recent information on the locations of these shafts.

Can members comment on any of the other Domesday quarry sites? Is there any evidence that any of them were subterranean, as the Surrey ones appear to have been?

UNDERGROUND IN HITLER'S TERROR WEAPON ...

The cavers' magazine Descent often contains articles dealing with man-made or man-used cavities, of which Dave Gill's Underground in Hitler's terror weapon (Descent 56, 20 - 23, ? 1984) is an example.

Exploration of 1.4 miles of subterranean tunnels and rocket-launching shafts is described, with photographs, although rumours of the remains of 4,000 entombed P.O.s could not be substantiated. The site is in the Chalk at Mimoyecques, 15 km south of Calais.

DEATH OF SIR HAROLD HARDING ...

Sir Harold Harding, a leading civil engineer who specialised in tunnel works and was founder chairman of the British Tunnelling Society, has died. His obituary appeared in The Times, 3 April 1986; his book Tunnelling History and my own Involvement (Toronton: Golder Associates, 1981) contains much of interest to students of underground works.

NEWS FROM DEVON ... BEER QUARRIES ...

Bruce Osborne reports that Beer Quarries, Devon, now operated as a tourist attraction, are well worth visiting.

It appears that a booklet has been published ... John Scott & Gladys Gray, Out of the darkness. A brief history and description of the Old Quarry, Beer, n.p., n.d., 22 pp. illus.

VILLAGE GAS 'EMERGENCY' GOES INTO SECOND WEEK ...

A Derbyshire village has gone into its second week of a 'peacetime emergency' declared by the county council after pockets of methane gas escaped. The village of Ioscoe has 350 homes on alert to be evacuated within one hour if necessary. An explosion a week last Monday destroyed a sun bungalow, injuring a family of three.

The village lies between Heanor and Ripley. Two collieries in the area closed years ago but gas could have built up in the old mine workings. A former refuse site near houses in the village has been filled in. The 7 - acre tip closed three years ago after nearly 10 years of in-filling to a depth of 200 feet in what was a 200 year old brickyard.

A possibility is that methane gas has built up inside the refuse tip and could have passed into old mine workings ...

The Guardian, 2 April 1986

METHANE FROM TIPPED RUBBISH ... NOT JUST FROM COAL MEASURES ...

Members should be aware of the dangers of methane generated within tipped refuse. G. Pecksen has described (London's first gas field comes on stream, London Environmental Bulletin 1(2), 5 - 6, 1983) how a joint GLC / National Smokeless Fuels Ltd (an NCB subsidiary) enterprise has led to the recovery and sale of commercial quantities of methane from a landfill site at Aveley (Essex.) In a later article (Methane and the development of derelict land, London Environmental Bulletin 2(3), 10 - 11, 1984) he indicates the need for investigations and precautions during development of landfill sites, as does J.K.G. Hill (Landfill gas - dispersion using a breather trench, London Environmental Bulletin 3(3), 9 - 10, 1985.)

BLAST INDUCED VIBRATION IN SEWERS ... L.B. GREENWICH ...

Mike Forsdyke and Paul Lattimore (Blast Induced Vibration in Sewers, London Environmental Bulletin 3(3), 7 - 8, 1985) report investigations of the effects of pile - driving by the Rosenstock Shock Blasting method (proposed for a new rail bridge west of Well Hall station) on nearby sewers. As a result, BR's plans were changed as it appeared there was a significant risk of damage to the sewer tunnels.

RADON HAZARD UNDERGROUND ...

Government action to combat the threat from radon gas, which is found in many buildings in granite areas ... is unlikely before next year ...

Radon is a natural radioactive gas ... in sufficient quantities can cause lung cancer. Cornish tin miners wear protective gas masks when working underground in radon areas ...

An interim study ... last year found radiation levels in some Cornish homes 100 times higher than normal ... Some parts of the Pennines were also found to have higher than average levels, but radon levels in Aberdeen were well below the norm.

The Guardian, 3 April 1986

NEWS FROM PARIS ...

Our linked organisation SEHDACS (Societe D'Etudes Historiques des Anciennes Carrieres & Cavites Souterraines) has recently published the fifth issue of its well-produced journal Liaison. Articles in this issue (1985) include ...

Alain Clement, Les puits jumeles de l'Hotel de Ville de "Charenton - le - Pont, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 7 - 19

L. Simonin, Perennite Sociologique ... Extrait du "Monde Souterrain" de L. Simonin, Ibid 5, p. 20

Alain Clement, Les graphismes relatifs aux confortations souterraines, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 21 - 31

Anon, Liste des Inspecteurs Generaux qui se sont succedes a L'Inspection des Carrieres de 1777 a nos jours, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 32 - 38

Alain Clement, Les carrieres de Paris pendant l'Occupation Allemande, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 39 - 44

George Mantoy, Les anciennes carrieres de Paris. Projets d'utilisation des carrieres pendant la Grande Guerre, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 45 - 50

R. Chardon, Les carrieres de Chatillon, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 51 - 74

M. Laurent, Rehabilitation du patrimoine industriel "Le Moulin de Pierres de Chatillon, Liaison SEHDACS 5, 75 - 84

Also received from SEHDACS ...

Alain Clement, Les Anciennes Carrieres de Paris. Vocation historique de l'Hopital Cochin

Musee des Carrieres, en cours de realisation, 113 Boulevard de Port - Royal (Ouverture prevue debut 1987)

SEHDACS 20pp

R. Samuel - Lajeunesse, L'Inspection Generale des Carrieres de la Seine, Annales des Mines, Decembre 1963: 20pp

and other items

A new publication is announced ...

Catacombes et Carrieres de Paris

An historical and anecdotal work devoted to the ancient quarries of our capital city which is just being published. The author, Dr. Rene Suttel, has been cataloguing this unrecognized subterranean heritage, which unfortunately is rapidly being destroyed by the present vandalism, for 35 years. Daily, after his work in the Department of Psychotherapy at the Sainte - Anne Hospital, the historian, accompanied by his friend Professor Jean Talairach, goes exploring this immense mineral labyrinth of 300 km of galleries and caves. In 1943 he collected important information on the whole of this vast underground network, slipping past the Luftwaffe guards. Upon his return from these expeditions, in a secret shelter under the rue Cabanis, he drew up a complete plan of the mines with precise bench-marks, vital to any visitor discovering this unusual universe.

The author correlates the subterranean features with those above ground ..

Publication expected March 1986 ... Price 75 Francs ... cheques to 'souscription SEHDACS', 7 rue Clisson, 75013 PARIS, France

FLITTERMOUSE HOLE ... THOSE WERE THE DAYS ...

At the southern edge of Downs Wood ... the best exposure (of Chalk) is the pit known as Flittermouse Hole on the edge of Whitehorse Wood; it has long been abandoned, and parts are inaccessible and others obscured by bat-guano ...

Henry Dewey et al, The geology of the country around Dartford,
Memoir Geological Survey, 1924, p. 28.

RARE CAVE BATS ... HOW RARE ARE THEY?

R.E. Stebbings assesses the rarity of bats using underground roosts in an article Rare cave bats - how rare are they? in Bat News 6, 2 - 3, 1986.

Our impression of the relative abundance of the various species is undoubtedly biased. We search easily accessible sites and can count visible bats. Caves or mines often have crevices, or piles of rocks, and it came as a surprise to me over 30 years ago to find that Daubenton's bats flew on to the ground only to disappear beneath. Subsequently I found, by mark and recapture studies, that in one site, two-thirds of the bats occupying a mine were not visible during inspection ...

Dr. Stebbings goes on to comment on the mouse-eared, Bechstein's, Barbastelle, grey long-eared and serotine bats ...

On 16 January 1986, while walking over broken stones 5 metres from a cave entrance ... in Wiltshire, I heard a squeak of protest under my foot. Moving a few stones revealed a dust covered old male serotine. The only damage was a small tear in the tail membrane. Piles of rocks or scree slopes are known to shelter Daubenton's bats, but perhaps Serotines also use them. It is difficult to search such places without destroying them, and does highlight the need to avoid damaging or walking on loose rocks. ...

MONSTER IN SOVIET LAKE IS JUST MUD ...

Moscow - a team of experts from the prestigious Soviet Academy of Sciences claims to have scientifically disproved the existence of a mysterious marine beast in the depths of Lake Kol - Kol. ...

For many years there have been reports ... of "a dinosaur-like" creature about 20 yards in length and emitting loud trumpeting sounds ...

According to the researchers, the deep lake is connected with underground cavities by mud-covered cracks. When the mud is washed away and water rushes down, large whirlpools appear. And if air is sucked in as well, the lake starts "singing."

The Times, 18 January 1986

UNDERGROUND BRITAIN ...

It was suggested in Newsletter 3 that SB might compile and maintain a 'directory of public subterranean sites.' The idea was to add to the 62 sites for which details were given in the Sunday Times Magazine of 26 August 1984, and to keep and update the data on 'floppy disc'; members were invited to send data for entries to the Chairman. Few submissions were received, and it is now uncertain what sort of computing facilities the Chairman will have access to following closure of his school in July 1986. So this particular project has come to nought.

However, Bruce Bedford, editor of the caverns' magazine Descent, has now written a book Underground Britain which covers some of the same ground. Written essentially from a caving point of view, it describes, first, 17 of the most important 'wild' caves in the U.K. There then follows a somewhat larger section on 'show' caves which includes a large number of sites which are not caves at all, and in many instances nothing like them. For both the 'wild' and the 'show' 'caves' the descriptions are supplemented by some excellent photographs.

The 'show caves' are as follows ...

South - west

Toldark mine (Cornwall); Kent's cavern (Devon); George & Charlotte copper mine (near Tavistock); Kitley caves (near Yealmpton); Beer Quarry caves (Devon); Cheddar Gorge caves (Somerset); Wookey Hole caves (Somerset); Clearwell caves (iron mines)(Gloucestershire);

Southern England

St. Clement's caves (Hastings); Scott's Grotto (Herts); Hell-Fire caves (Ducks); Chislehurst caves (SE London); Royston cave (Herts); Grimes Graves (Norfolk);

Wales & the Borders

Big Pit Mining Museum (Gwent); Dan-yr-Ogof caves (Powys); Dolaucothi gold mines (Dyfed); Gloddfa Ganol slate mine (Gwynedd); Llechwedd slate caverns (Gwynedd); Dinorwig power station (underground power station)(Gwynedd);

Northern England

King John cavern and mine (Derbyshire); Treak Cliff cavern (Derbys); Spae'well cavern (Derbys); Peak Cavern (Derbys); Bagshawe cavern (Derbys); Goodluck lead mine (Derbys); Royal cave (Derbys); Temple mine (Derbys); Heights of Abraham (Derbys); Poole's cavern (Derbys); Chatterley Whitfield mining museum (Staffs); Ingleborough cave (North Yorks); White Scar caves (North Yorks); Stump Cross caverns (North Yorks);

Scotland

Cruachan Hydro-Electric power station (Strathclyde); Smoo cave (Highlands); Museum of Scottish Lead Mining & Loch Nell mine (Banlockhead, Dumfries & Galloway)

The 'further reading' list, despite the book's contents, contains only three non-caving titles, all of which concern coal mining!

Although the magazine Descent gets a good plug (with address), details of the National Association of Mining History Organisations are not included!

Publ. P. Collins, 1985. 176pp. £ 9.95

THE STONES OF BRITAIN. LANDSCAPE AND MONUMENTS, QUARRIES AND CATHEDRALS

Despite its title, this at first sight promising book is essentially a rather superficial guide to landscapes, with shaky geological underpinning and sadly deficient treatment of quarrying. Presumably because his primary purpose was to write about landscape, the author's definition of 'stone' seems to approach the geologist's definition of 'rock' ... although there are chapters only for 'Hard rock landscapes', 'Sandstone scenery', and 'Landscapes of limestone.' Quite a lengthy digression on clay scenery, brickmaking and so forth intrudes into the sandstone chapter! The second main part of the book deals with 'stone and prehistoric man' and takes in an inevitably superficial tour of stone tools, flint mining, 'caves, huts and walls', megaliths and so forth.

The third and final main section deals with 'The rise and fall of building in stone' but inspection of those parts dealing with a number of the more important building-stone quarry districts reveals disappointing treatment both in terms of errors and of omissions. The chapter 'In the quarry' sets out to 'highlight specific examples of contrasting quarrying methods' and deals, in fact, with slate workings (some of which are acknowledged to have been subterranean); the Weldon quarries (Northants); the Stonesfield slate quarries (or mines) (Oxon); and the Aberdeen granite quarries. With cathedrals specifically mentioned in the title, and so many photographs of fine ashlar and carvings, it seems odd that there is so little mention of our main limestone and sandstone dimension-stone quarrying areas. Although many of these were of course subterranean, and thus do not impinge directly on the landscapes in which they are embedded, they surely deserved more attentive treatment - perhaps for that very reason.

The titles suggested for 'further reading' are in many cases decidedly 'lightweight' if not somewhat obscure and troublesome to track down; the only specifically quarrying titles listed (on a page left two-thirds blank) are the Oxfordshire County Council Museums Service's booklet on Stonesfield Slate, and a work The Lincolnshire Limestone (1981) by J.A. Best, S. Parker and S.M. Prickett 'obtainable from Nene College, Northamptonshire.'

Richard Muir is 'a full-time writer on and photographer of the landscape' and is the author of, it seems, another dozen or so books including Modern Political Geography, The English Landscape, Riddles in the Landscape, Shell Guide to Reading the Landscape, The Lost Villages of Britain, Traveller's History of Britain and Ireland and so forth.

The book has a promising title, is well produced and illustrated, but is seriously lacking in depth.

Richard Muir, The stones of Britain. Landscapes and monuments, quarries and cathedrals, 1986

London : Michael Joseph, 288 pp, £ 15.95 ISBN 0 7181 2539 8

SNOW HILL RAILWAY TUNNELL ...

Work has recently started on re-constructing this tunnel prior to reinstating a north-south rail link over the Thames. It formed the western side of a triangular junction between the Metropolitan Railway and the London Chatham and Dover Railway. Notes on the history of the link by David Perrett appear in Newsl. Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society 103, 4 - 5, 1986.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE ... YOUR POSITION AS A SB MEMBER ...

Subterranea Britannica (SB) is a member of the National Association of Mining History Organisations (NAMHO) which in turn has negotiated third party insurance through the British Cave Research Association (BCRA); this insurance covers SB members, as we have opted to forward a part of members' subscriptions as a contribution towards the insurance premium. The following notes recently received from NAMHO may be helpful ...

1) What are we covered for?a) Public liability

Being sued for damages as a result of your negligence which has caused -

- (i) death, injury, disease or illness to another person (whether a member of the public or your own group);
- (ii) loss or damage to property of others;
- (iii) obstruction, trespass, nuisance, etc.

b) Product liability

Being sued for damages as a result of your negligence in supplying faulty goods, e.g. shaft capping, plans, etc.;

c) Legal costs

Any costs incurred in the above actions.

2) What is not covered?

- a) Any injury, etc., to yourself;
- b) Any loss or damage to your own property;
- c) Liability caused by defective premises belonging to yourself or your society;
- d) Claims for accidents to your own employees in the course of their employment;
- e) Accidents involving a vehicle on a public highway;
- f) Accidents involving aircraft or boats (except small hand-propelled craft e.g. dinghies);
- g) Claims under 1a (ii) and (iii) above which were inevitable in view of the work being done;
- h) Anything following wilful damage by yourself or the committing of an illegal act;
- i) Loss or damage caused by irradiation, aircraft pressure waves, war, riot, etc.;
- j) Product liability in USA or Canada;
- k) Any activity undertaken for a fee.

3) How much cover?

£ 500,000 for any one occurrence plus legal costs.

4) Whom is covered?

- a) Any NAMHO organisation and NAMHO itself;
- b) Any individual member of such an organisation;
- c) Committee members (including those officially classed as directors, e.g. PDMHS Ltd.);
- d) Invited guests at official society activities upon payment of an enhanced premium (currently 50p.). Details of names and addresses should be taken and one premium will cover them for other official activities during the rest of the calendar year;
- e) Landowners and mine owners. This is an important addition and can be done free of charge. There is no longer any need to sign indemnities since the landowner will have full cover under the insurance for any claims for negligence, etc., made by yourself or others.

A certificate of insurance will be issued in the landowner's name and specifying the mine or area involved. I (i.e. Adrian Pearce, NAMHO Chairman) have been given the authority to issue these certificates and, to prevent abuse, certain restrictions will be applied;

- * i) At the request of the NAMHO Council or committee of a member organisation - a certificate covering a landowner for the whole year in respect of access to a general area or mine of particular importance;
- * ii) At the request of an individual member - a certificate covering a landowner for a specified mine(s) on a specified date. All requests to be made via your NAMHO representative (i.e. Paul Sowan) and preferably with two weeks notice. Urgent requests can be made by the representative via the telephone. A small charge will be made for postage, etc. Requests for a longer period (e.g. for projects) will be considered;
- * iii) The landowner's cover will only apply in respect of trips or activities undertaken by members of NAMHO organisations and their invited guests.

5) Where are you covered?

- a) Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, and Irish Republic;
- b) For persons normally resident in (a) above, the rest of the world.

6) When are you covered?

During official society activities or private trips for ...

- a) Exploration of caves, disused (not working) mines and quarries;
- b) All activities associated with mining research both underground and on the surface e.g. surveying, digging, preservation, photography, etc.;
- c) Crossing land to gain access to the above;
- d) Official society social events;
- e) Ancillary activities - publishing, equipment testing, rescue services;

7) Claims

We do not want any spurious claims since any claim is going to increase the premium and possibly encourage the insurers to refuse to renew. The cover is meant for an occasion when a member has been sued for a lot of money - we hope it doesn't happen but need the cover in case. A spinoff is that cover helps us in access negotiations.

In case of a genuine claim, you should contact your NAMHO representative immediately and he will contact me or the BCRA direct. NEVER ADMIT LIABILITY.

8) Access permission

You are covered for unintentional trespass but not where you knowingly break into a mine since this is an illegal act. Always ask permission.

9) Equipment

a) Tackle

You are expected to take reasonable care of tackle to ensure its safety. This means that you must at least carry out visual checks for damage after use and dispose of any tackle that is damaged or old. You are not covered if you knowingly allow someone to use tackle that is unsafe.

b) Winches

Any manriding winches must be mechanically sound. To be covered you must have the winch tested annually by an independent engineer and get a certificate to confirm that it is safe for manriding.

10) Explosives

The use of explosives is not covered under this general policy. An individual member can, however, extend his cover to include such liability by payment of an additional premium of £ 5.00. Anyone wishing to do this should contact Adrian Pearce for an application form.

11) Premiums

An organisation's premium is based on the total membership at the beginning of the calendar year. There is an arrangement whereby anyone joining during the year will be automatically covered to the year end. A half premium is then payable in arrears in respect of any such new member to average out actual liability. These arrears are payable with the new premium for the following year. Any 50ps charged for guests are payable in arrears at the same time.

Dual membership is covered by a percentage reduction in the organisation's premium to the NAMHO treasurer. Since NAMHO is expected to pay the overall premium as soon as possible after 1st January, organisations are asked to forward their share as soon as asked by the Treasurer. It is a condition of the insurance that each participating organisation keeps a record of members' names and addresses which can be inspected by the insurers on demand.

12) Queries

Please contact Adrian Pearce if you have any queries - 162 Kingston Crescent, Lordswood, CHATHAM, Kent.

SB NOW HAS ACCESS TO A HAND AUGER ...

The Groydon Natural History & Scientific Society has recently purchased hand augering equipment, which is being made available to the team working on the east Surrey quarries and mines. The equipment includes soil, gravel, and chisel heads and five metres of rods, and was supplied by ELE International Ltd. at a cost inclusive of carriage and VAT of about £180.

CHANNEL FIXED LINE: ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS ...

This document was prepared by Land Use Consultants for the Department of Transport (1986) and is available from HMSO for £ 9.80. It contains 98 pages and 3 fold-out maps. The terminal site plans are far from clear in detail!

CHANNEL TUNNEL GROUP ... NOW EUROTUNNEL ...

As from 28 April the joint name of the Channel Tunnel Group Ltd and France Manche S.A. has been Eurotunnel. The address is Portland House, Stag Place, LONDON SW1E 5BJ (11th and 12th floors) - 01 - 834 7575.

Channel Tunnel News is issued

There is, also, a Channel Tunnel Group Information Centre at Tontine House, Tontine Street, FOLKESTONE, Kent (0303) 57466.

CHANNEL TUNNEL ... HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD ...

Copies of this leaflet are available free from Dept. Transport Publicity Store, Building No. 3, Victoria Road, SOUTH RUISLIP, Middlesex HA4 0NZ.

MEMOIRS COTHAM SPELAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY REPRINTED ...

Anne Oldham informs us that the following have recently been reprinted and are available ...

- Mem. Cotham Spel. Soc. IV, 1968 - 69 ... includes 'the famous Box report' ... 30 pp, illus. Revised and reprinted 3/86 £ 2.00
- Mem. Cotham Spel. Soc. V, 1970 ... includes accounts of a variety of Walths. (Box) stone quarries visits ... 23 pp ... £ 1.00
- Scripta Legenda I (Lower Hill Series) 1974 ... 40pp. ... study by R.J. Tucker of graffiti in Box Quarries ... 40pp ... £ 2.50
- Some Notable Wiltshire Quarries 1972 ... 41pp, illus. ... by R. Tucker 2nd edn. ... £ 2.00

from ... Mrs. Anne Oldham, Elyddwr, Crymych, Dyfed SA41 3RB.

If you are not already on Anne's mailing list for caving, mining and quarrying publications, its worth getting yourself onto it!

DO SEND IN INFORMATION ...

Any odds and ends of information you come across, similar to those in this Newsletter, are always welcomed for the files!

A HISTORY OF ENGINEERING IN CLASSICAL AND MEDIEVAL TIMES ...

This volume contains three sections ... civil engineering, mechanical engineering, and fine technology.

The civil engineering section occupies about 100 pages of the total of 263 pp., and includes details on irrigation and water supply (where most of the mentions of underground interest will be found), dams, bridges, roads, building construction and surveying. The author's interests and contacts have led to the Middle East being particularly well covered. The useful bibliography occupies pages 248 - 63.

Donald Hill, A history of engineering in classical and medieval times, Croom Helm, 1984, (x) + 263 pp ISBN 0 7069 1209 9 £ 18.95

THE LINCOLNSHIRE LIMESTONE ... WELDON AND KETTON QUARRIES ...

This publication deals with stone quarries (quarries in the widest sense) at Weldon about 2 miles east of Corby in Northamptonshire, and at Ketton about 4 miles south-west of Stamford in Rutland, both ancient and famous quarrying parishes. Further studies in the same series are published, particularly one devoted to the Collyweston 'slate' mines.

There was some underground quarrying at both locations (e.g. at SP 918888 at the former, and at SK 966056 at the latter), and pages 61 - 66 in particular deal with this aspect within a much wider and broader study of quarry history and environmental impact. There is still active open-casting in both areas, and the areas continue to change dramatically for this reason and on account of backfilling. As the authors say in their introduction '... the systematic investigation of the character of quarries and quarrying in the past - with few notable exceptions - largely remains to be accomplished.' Indeed, apart from some reference to the Box quarries, a first rapid skim through fails to reveal much reference to research into other quarry areas, or to other than local sources of information. It seems to be the familiar story ... good work being done in isolation ... lack of liaison with other quarry researchers ... and publication in relatively obscure and difficult - to - trace form. As the authors propose to continue their research into other Lincolnshire Limestone quarries, and invite collaboration, it is to be hoped that there is scope for work with SB here. There are sections on the architectural evidence for the working of the stone, distribution in use, tools used, etc. Appendices, practically, deal with access arrangements, interest groups (the county naturalists' trusts are, very properly, included although the importance of underground sites for bats appears not to be mentioned) and sources. Irritatingly, a deliberate policy of not citing detailed bibliographical references has been followed! But it seems clear that the authors were not aware of a variety of 'national' sources that might well have thrown additional light ... The History of the King's Works at least for Weldon, the Report with Reference to the Selection of Stone for Building the New Houses of Parliament (1839), Hunt's Mineral Statistics ... Part II for 1858 for example. The last-named lists 19 quarries in Rutland, including 8 or 9 in or around Ketton, and 18 in Northants. For more modern times one might have expected data from the Mines & Quarries Lists and Inspectors' Reports produced as a result of the Metalliferous Mines Regulations Acts 1872 onwards, and the Quarries Act 1894 to complement the valuable details derived from surviving local quarry operators' records. The trade journals (such as the Quarry, The Quarry Managers' Journal, The Builder) and directories might also have been used. As might the only really thorough major technical work in the field, Allan Greenwell & J. Vincent Elsdon's Practical Stone Quarrying (1913).

There is no index, and the diagrams and maps would have benefitted from better captions. The words 'derelict' and 'accessibility' are consistently mis-spelled! However, this is a valuable contribution to quarry research, and includes data relevant to several important underground sites (few of any of which are currently accessible.)

J.A. Best, S. Parker & C.M. Prickett, The Lincolnshire Limestone (a) Quarries - Weldon & Ketton. Northampton : Nene College Using the Environment series no. 6 : (xiv) + 142 pp. 1981 reprint with minor revisions of a work originally published in 1978.

£ 2.75 incl. p/p from Nene College Publications, Moulton Park, NORTHAMPTON NN2 7AL.

DODGY TUNNELS AND TUNNELLING ...

Soviet technicians are currently, apparently, tunnelling below the stricken nuclear reactor at Chernobyl in connection with attempts to contain and dampen down the fire raging inside it, and to protect local ground water from contamination.

Meanwhile in USA the Americans' own little local incident, a couple of weeks before Chernobyl, appears to have resulted in an underground test cavern for nuclear weapons remaining molten for 10 days and two sealed doors leaking radiation into associated tunnels and damaging 20 million dollars worth of monitoring equipment. Questions about secrecy concerning such accidents are being asked in connection with both super-powers' policies in these matters!

TUNNEL ANNIVERSARY ... SEVERN TUNNEL 100 YEARS ON ...

As noted in Railway Magazine 132(1021), p. 295 (1986) there appear to be no moves to celebrate the opening of the Severn Tunnel to goods trains on 1 September 1886, or to passengers on 1 December the same year.

NEWS FROM BELGIUM ... LEAD MINES ...

Our linked Belgian society's journal SOBERES Bull. d'Information 13 (1985) recently arrived, and contains a number of papers on a lead mine at Vedrin; also short items on Le Musee de la Mine at Colfontaine - Wasmes, and the Neolithic flint mines of international importance at Spiennes.

AL CAPONE'S CUPBOARD IS BARE ...

Tax officers and reporters who gathered in Chicago for the much-ballyhooed unsealing of Al Capone's secret vault suffered the fate of Mother Hubbard (The Times reports) ... The vault was blown open with explosives, but was found to contain only a few empty gin bottles! Capone died in 1947 leaving an unpaid tax bill!

The Times, 23 April 1986

CHINA WANTS ITS SCROLLS ...

The Curator of China's ancient Buddhist caves of Dunhuang pleaded yesterday for the return of thousands of precious scrolls and manuscripts removed early this century to museums in Western Europe ...

The Times, 28 April 1986